

from Texas Women's University in 1997. Mayor Sitton is married to Frank and has one son, John, and two grandchildren.

Before entering public office, Mayor Sitton taught High School English for 10 years and was a high school counselor for more than 7 years. During her public service in Lubbock, Mayor Sitton has helped foster a more cooperative spirit among business, education, and government, which created a stronger and more diversified economy in Lubbock. During her service as mayor, she also supported the adoption of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, which will link Lubbock to an internationally important trade route and provide Lubbock and the West Texas region with continued economic growth. She also was instrumental in forming the Community Relations Commission and the Youth Commission, which have opened dialogues to address complex community issues. Mayor Sitton's accomplishments have reached far into her community affecting numerous local government services Lubbock residents receive, including the areas of parks, police training, firefighting, libraries, sanitation, economic development, race relations, and establishing a much needed drainage system that better protects Lubbock residents and their property.

Mayor Sitton's achievements have been met with accolades at the local and state level. Some of her notable recognitions include designation as the Best Business Leader in 2000 by the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, a recipient of the Women of Excellence Award in 2000, and the "Woman of Distinction" Award in 1997 by the Leadership Texas Hall of Fame.

Her desire to help more women enter the political arena and take advantage of community service opportunities can only be benefitted from the example Mayor Sitton has given through her successes in public office. Mayor Sitton exemplifies the positive impact women can have in the political arena.

I would like to extend to Mayor Sitton my thanks for her generous service to the city of Lubbock, and my sincerest best wishes in all her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF WEEK OF THE  
YOUNG CHILD AND PROJECT  
HEAD START

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Week of the Young Child, and commemorate the 37th Anniversary of Project Head Start. A luncheon to honor Jersey City's community leaders was held by the Jersey City Child Development Centers, Inc., Wednesday, April 17, 2002, in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Week of the Young Child, April 7–13, 2002, provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the importance of providing our children with strong foundations; a successful start leads to a successful future. And with the help of parental involvement and the guidance from child care professionals, our youngest citizens can look forward to a future full of opportunity.

A national early childhood development program, Project Head Start, focuses on parental involvement and provides education, health,

nutrition, and psychological, and social development services. Eight million children and their families across the United States enjoy a brighter future thanks to Project Head Start. Under the direction of Esther G. Lee, Jersey City Head Start serves 875 children and their families in fifteen centers.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Week of the Young Child and Project Head Start; the well being of our nation depends on the livelihood of our children. Thank you to the community leaders that dedicate themselves to these outstanding programs.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF CARNIVAL IN  
THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 2002*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to commend the people of the Virgin Islands on occasion of the fiftieth year of Carnival in the U.S. Virgin Islands. This yearlong observance is an important and historic time for all of us because not only is it Carnival's Golden Anniversary but also is an affirmation that our culture is vibrant and strong. This Golden Jubilee promises to be one of our grandest celebrations, the one currently taking place this week on St. Thomas and the Crucian Christmas Fiesta on St. Croix in December which will complete our year-long observance of Virgin Islands culture at its finest. The road to this Golden Jubilee was long and difficult surviving over the years with the help of so many talented minds and hands that have made this all possible.

Impressed with a Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1911, Adolph "Ding" Sixto brought the idea back to the Virgin Islands and became the inspiration of the first St. Thomas Carnival that was held on Valentine's Day February 14, 1912. A Carnival King, Valdemar Miller and Carnival Queen Cassilda Durbo reigned over that event of pomp and pageantry. Carnival revelry included donkey, bicycle and boat races, greased pig catching, greased pole, confetti battles, Dixieland plantation life, comedic skits, a regal torchlight procession and masquerading throughout Charlotte Amalie. This event was repeated in 1914 with the royalty being King Lt. Knudsen and Queen Amie LaBeet.

Unfortunately, with the advent of World War I, Carnival came to an abrupt halt. Inspired by Albert "Happy Holiday" Halliday, an editorial by Rufus Martin in the Virgin Islands Daily News 38 years later, suggested the need to revitalize Carnival. Radio personality Mango Jones (former Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress, Ron DeLugo) echoed the call to "Let's have a Carnival." A committee headed by Eldra Shulterbrandt put together the first revitalized festival. The focus was on the parade of Masqueraders led by a cavalcade of men and women on horseback adorned in uniform procession.

That day and for years after, Carnival started out from Frenchtown. This particular Carnival and that first Road March was the frame from which the novel "Don't Stop The Carnival" by Herman Wouk emerged. The Book of the Month Club made it a featured selec-

tion; it received critical acclaim from the New York Times and because a national bestseller. Carnival royalty that year were Leo Sibilly and Carmen Nicholson. In those early years, royalty was selected solely on number of votes sold. By the 1960s, a competition to judge poise, grace and beauty replaced the votes sold criteria. Since 1952, Carnival Queens, and in some years, Kings, reigned over this large and colorfully cultural event.

Road marches were introduced in 1952 when amidst heavy rain, the Duke of Iron, a Calypsonian from Trinidad and Tobago, spot-composed and started to sing Rain Don't Stop the Carnival. Like a contagion, everyone took up the strains and braved the weather to the song in the mile-long procession. Many of the revelers were in paper type colorful costumes that were ruined by the heavy downpour. The high spirits of these masqueraders were not dampened by the rains. It only served to driving them forward into 48 years of Carnival.

Though the first steel band came to St. Thomas in 1949, Casablanca, Hell's Gate and Bute Force steelbands came in from nearby islands, Antigua and St. Kitts to participate in the revived Carnival in 1952. It is from these groups, the first local steel bands including the Lincoln School, the Molyneux All Girls and the Charlotte Amalie High School (CAHS) Shooting Stars steelbands were organized. Names like Lezmore Emanuel and Alfred Lockhart are pioneers of the early local steelband movement. By the 1970s, steelbands had diminished to the extent that by the mid 1970s, through the efforts of Glenn 'Kawabena' Davis, Bingley Richardson and his troupe Cavalcade Africana, steelbands such as the Harmonites, Superstars and Halcyon were brought in from Antigua. For several years, as many as four steelbands were hosted each Carnival season in areas on St. Thomas such as Polyberg, Frenchtown, and Mandahl. By the 1990s, through the effort of former Presiding Judge Verne A. Hodge and the Virgin Islands Territorial Court sponsored Rising Stars Youth Steel Orchestra, steelbands made a dramatic return and dominated Carnival in the 1990s more than in any other decade.

The Prince and Princess were made a part of Carnival Royalty in 1953, the first being former Governor Roy L. Schneider, M.D., and Dr. Gwen Moolenaar. On a few occasions, there were only Princesses. The Carnival Village, like the Food Fair, became an institution of Carnival by 1957 serving up a plethora of delicacies and cuisine representing the ethnic diversity of the Virgin Islands. In this same year, Carnival was viewed as a Virgin Islands festival when Crucian, Melba Canegata was crowned Queen of Carnival. The village was first in the parking lot directly south of Emancipation Garden. It has been in Lionel Roberts Stadium, on the Waterfront and since the early 1970s, it has been housed in the Fort Christian Parking Lot where 39 booths are placed offering an unmatched variety of culinary pleasure. The Carnival Village stage was increased from 22'x22' to 40'x40'. Since 1985, the village has been named in honor of someone who has made significant contributions to Carnival, the first being Christian's Court in 1985 in honor of Judge Alphonso Christian, a former Chairman of Carnival.

Initially, the Carnival Food Fair was dominated by foods, locally grown fruits, vegetables and plants and drinks. Arts and Craft